

REMARKS

Claims 38 and 40-50 have been canceled. Claims 51-72 have been added. Applicants have enclosed herewith a check in the amount of \$170.00 to cover the cost of the fee for the added claims. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 18-1644.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 38, 40 and 42-50 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Usami patent taken in view of the Nagasaki, et al. patent and in further view of the Outa, et al. patent. Claims 38, 40 and 42-50 have been canceled, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot. Moreover, to the extent the Examiner believes that the rejection applies to the newly added claims it is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent apparatus and method claims 51 and 62 are directed to an apparatus and method, respectively, in which a color image signal is transferred to an external apparatus via an image pickup apparatus. A color image signal is generated by an image sensor and control data for processing the color image signal is stored in a built-in memory of the image pickup apparatus. Attachment of the external memory to the image pickup apparatus is detected and, upon such detection, the control data stored in the built-in memory is transferred to the external memory.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, while the Nagasaki, et al. patent discloses the use of attachable memories in an electronic still camera system, there is no teaching or suggestion of transferring control data for processing a color image signal stored in a built-in memory of an image pickup apparatus to an external memory upon detecting attachment of the external memory. Likewise, the Outa, et al.

patent which describes a color film reading apparatus and the Usami patent which discloses an image processing apparatus for processing an input image signal based on the characteristics of the image signal fail to teach or suggest such construction.

Applicants' independent claims 51 and 62, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the combination of the Nagasaki, et al., Usami and Outa, et al. patents.

Applicants' added independent apparatus and method claims 58 and 69 are directed to an apparatus and method, respectively, in which image data is stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with designation data. The designation data designates a standard image data for controlling from among the plurality of data. The standard image data is detected on the basis of the designation data recorded on the recording medium. The detected standard image data is then processed to obtain a control value for white balance. White control is then effected when the image data is processed using the obtained control value.

Again, while the Usami and Outa, et al. patents describe systems in which there is white balance control, there is no teaching or suggestion of the storage of designation data which designates a standard image data, detecting the standard image data based on the stored designation data, obtaining a white control value based on the detected standard image data and using the control value in processing the image data. Similarly, the Nagasaki, et al. patent contains no such teaching or suggestion.

Applicants' independent claims 58 and 69, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the combination of the Nagasaki, et al., Usami and Outa, et al. patents.

Applicants' independent claims 61 and 72 are directed to an apparatus and method in which an object is photographed to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium. A designating device designates whether or not the image data to be recorded on the recording medium is used as a standard image data for white balance control at the time of reproduction. A designating data for designating the standard image data is then recorded

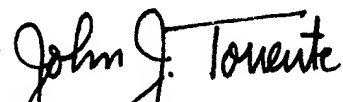
Again, there is nothing in the Nagasaki, et al., Usami and Outa, et al. patents which equates to designating whether image data is standard image data for white balance control at the time of reproduction and recording the designated data. Applicants' claims 61 and 72, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the cited patents.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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